

City Bridges

Spring 2006

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

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New Police Chief on the Job

Edward Boyd became Albany's Chief of Police in January.

Boyd, 44, was Deputy Police Chief in Salem before taking the top job in Albany. He joined the Salem Police Department in 1987, beginning as a patrol officer and working up through the ranks. He has been a patrol shift commander; leader of a youth services unit and gang response team; and commander of special teams such as SWAT and hostage negotiations, community resources, personnel and training, internal affairs, crime analysis, and drug enforcement.

In a message on the City's Web site to the community he now serves, Boyd wrote, "It is my profound honor and privilege to work side-by-side with the men and women of the Albany Police Department. Through their time and talents, their dedication to duty, pride in their work and their unqualified commitment, they provide the highest quality of service to our community. Our department mission statement 'Excellence Through Service' guides our staff in all we do. I am proud of all our dedicated employees who, in their daily activities, are making a positive difference in the Albany community.

"Community partnerships with police are a key ingredient for ensuring Albany remains a safe city. In order to accomplish our policing mission, we encourage community involvement and input on all



Ed Boyd is greeted after his swearing-in by members of the community.

policing issues. Citizens have a responsibility to take an active role in reporting all public safety concerns and closely working with our Police employees to help resolve problems with long-term solutions.

"We encourage you to become involved through our Citizen's Academy, Neighborhood Watch Program, or as a volunteer. You can contact our Community Resource Unit at 917-3206 or 917-3208 for further information on any of those programs. Only by working together can we continue to create and maintain the quality of life we expect for all those who love and enjoy Albany.

"The Albany Police Department serves 45,000 residents and employs 59 sworn officers and 28 civilian staff who carry on a 142 year tradition of professional public safety service. Regardless of whether you are a City resident or just visiting our

town, we are here to serve your public safety needs."

While in Salem, Chief Boyd was instrumental in working with neighborhoods to create awareness and help control gang and drug activity and to solve neighborhood problems related to cultural awareness and differences.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He and his wife Tawni have two grown children and a grandchild.

Albany City Manager Wes Hare said Boyd was chosen for the Albany position because of his demonstrated leadership, experience, and ability to work effectively with diverse groups. Boyd was selected from a field of more than 20 applicants from throughout the United States.

Use Courtesy and Common Sense with Portable Basketball Hoops

It's the time of year when City Hall begins to get calls and e-mail messages from people asking what can be done about portable basketball hoops.

We suspect that there are thousands of these things all over town. People, usually kids, set them up on sidewalks or in curbside parking areas so they can shoot hoops. Neighbors complain to us about noise, balls bouncing onto landscaping, and, most often, blocked sidewalks or kids playing in the streets, refusing to move for vehicles driving by.

Earlier this year, employees at Allied Waste of Albany Lebanon (formerly Albany-Lebanon Sanitation) reported problems with customers placing their trash containers too close to portable hoops. Placing the containers near or directly under the portable hoops can cause the garbage truck's mechanical arm to hook the hoop, creating a risk of injury to bystanders and to personal property.

Trash containers should be placed at least ten feet away from hoops on collection day.

The City of Albany doesn't have any special rules for using portable basketball hoops. Some of the situations that are reported to us are covered under the ordinances that prohibit blocking sidewalks or driveways or impeding pedestrian or vehicular traffic; but when neighbors complain to City Hall or the Police Department, we ask them to talk to the kids who are blocking the way or their parents.

It shouldn't take a visit from a police officer to solve a simple situation of common courtesy and neighborliness.

- If you're playing basketball in the street, get out of the way when cars come by.
- Drivers, slow down when you see kids playing.
- When you're finished playing, move the hoop off the street or the sidewalk onto your driveway or beside the driveway where it isn't blocking parking or walking or interfering with the garbage truck, mail delivery, or meter reading.
- If possible, set up and use your portable hoop on your paved patio or RV parking pad.

If you have any questions, please contact Allied Waste of Albany Lebanon at (541) 928-2551; or Sherri Jacobson, Community Service Officer, Albany Police Department, (541) 917-3208.

See How We Grow

Albany grew by almost 5,000 people in the last five years, according to figures from the 2000 U.S. Census and the Population Center at Portland State University. This table shows when that growth happened and how much was north or south of the Willamette River.

Albany is the Linn County seat and Linn County's largest city. Technically, the North Albany portion is the second largest city in Benton County.

Albany Population by County

County and City	July 1 Estimates					U.S. Census Count		U.S. Census Count	
	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	4/1/2000	4/1/1990	
Albany	45,360	44,030	43,600	42,280	41,650	41,145	40,852	29,540	
in Benton	6,455	6,215	6,035	5,385	5,240	5,140	5,104	15	
in Linn	38,905	37,815	37,565	36,895	36,410	36,005	35,748	29,525	
% Increase	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2002-01	2001-00				
Albany	3.0%	1.0%	3.1%	1.5%	1.2%				
in Benton	3.9%	3.0%	12.1%	2.8%	1.9%				
in Linn	2.9%	0.7%	1.8%	1.3%	1.1%				

City of Albany Directory

Mayor:

Chuck McLaran 928-3114

Ward I Councilors:

Dick Olsen 926-7348

Doug Killin 926-6829

Ward II Councilors:

Sharon Konopa 926-6812

Ralph Reid, Jr. 928-7382

Ward III Councilors:

Bessie Johnson 791-2494

Jeff Christman 926-0528

City Manager:

Wes Hare 917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers

General Information 917-7500

Ambulance Billing 917-7710

Building Inspection 917-7553

City Council Message 917-7503

City Manager 917-7500

Downtown

Carnegie Library 917-7585

Engineering 917-7676

Finance Office 917-7520

Fire Department 917-7700

Human Resources 917-7500

Main Library 917-7580

Mayor's Message 917-7502

Municipal Court 917-7740

Parks & Recreation 917-7777

Planning and Zoning 917-7550

Police Department 917-7680

Public Information Office 917-7507

Senior Center 917-7760

Transit 917-7667

Water and Sewer Billing 917-7547

Water/Sewer/Streets 917-7600

Emergencies
(Fire, Police, Ambulance)
Dial 911

City Bridges Info

City Bridges is published by an editorial team from the City of Albany. Questions and input about this newsletter can be directed to the City Manager's Office, 333 Broadalbin SW, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321-0144.

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Find the Treasure @ Your Library during National Library Week, April 2-8, 2006

A hoy, mateys and bookaneers! Pirate tales of adventure and intrigue are but one of the treasures preserved and waiting to be discovered at your library.

Libraries are places for opportunity, education, self-help, and lifelong learning – a virtual treasure trove providing millions of people with the resources they need to live, learn, and work in the foc'sle of the 21st century.

If one thing in the world is constant, it is change. Library visitors can refine job skills, update business practices, or learn about new technology. Come aboard; take the helm of your own adventure and treasure hunt. National Library Week, April 2-8, 2006, is a good time to set sail.

During National Library Week, daily library treasures will be spotlighted from the crow's nest. Each day of that week, Library staff will lead mini forays into the Library's mysteries. A new adventure is scheduled to begin every hour on the hour, covering the topic of the day.

Monday, April 3

Chart a course to warmer climes and exotic spots on the globe, ye bookaneers. When the six-pounders are a'firin' and ye need to head to the Barbary Coast hand-somely, don't be addled, me hearties. Ye can find the course on the briny deep in smartly fashion at ye ole Library. That be databases with maps to chart yer course and books to help if ye be a drivelswigger. If ye get marooned, that be books about survivin,' too. If ye need the words to a chantey, the address of a sutler, or the how-to of grub and grog, 'tis all here.

Tuesday, April 4

Cap'n Slappy and Ol' Chumbucket, the Albany duo who started Talk Like a Pirate Day, will share their linguistic talents at the Library, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with announcement of the winners of the pirate poster contest. The evening's program includes proclamations, grog, vittles, and yes, talking like a pirate.

Wednesday, April 5

Find the skeletons in your closet. Ask Library staff to show you how to start tracing your ancestry.

Thursday, April 6

Treasure in your sea chest? Is your plunder worth galleons? What know ye of chairs and paintings? What trades to quick pieces of eight? What's the difference between doubloons and crusadoes? Dieners, ducats, daalders? Use Library treasures to put a value to yours.

Friday, April 7

Find romance and imagination on the high seas through the Library stacks. Check out a good book.

Saturday, April 8

Keep your car ship shape. A pirate is in trouble when he can't tell the difference between the topgallant and the yardarm. Modern day pirates confused by firing orders and timing belts need the reliable treasure map (auto repair guide) to locate wires.



Pirate Poster Contest

Draw a picture of your favorite Albany Library treasures and you will be entered into the National Library Week pirate poster contest. Winners will be announced at the Main Library on Tuesday, April 4.

Entries must be submitted by March 22 at either branch of the Library. A winner will be selected in each of three age groups: prekindergarten through first grade; grades 2 - 5; and grades 6 - 12. Each winner will receive 25 Chamber dollars, and selected posters will become the 'Jolly Roger' on the library's webpage.

Entry forms may be picked up at either Library or downloaded from the Library's Web page: <http://library.cityofalbany.net>



Reassurance Calling Helps Seniors Stay In Touch

The Albany Fire Department, Albany Police Department, and Albany Senior Center have begun reassurance calls to help older adults in Albany.

Reassurance calling is a personal check-in to seniors by trained senior volunteers. The calls are offered up to seven days a week and are made between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Follow-up assistance is provided when needed.

Reassurance calling is intended to help older adults in Albany who wish to remain independent but could use a daily connection to another caring person.

If you live in the Albany area and you would like to use this program or you know of someone who needs this program, please call Michelle Brenden at 917-7715 for an application. If you would like to volunteer to make reassurance calls, contact Joy Gilliland at the Albany Senior Center, 917-7760, or Darla Luther at Albany Police Department, 917-3206.

Free Trees! (No fooling)

On April 1 from 9 a.m. until noon, the City of Albany and the City Tree Commission will be giving away free trees to the first 300 people at an event to kick off the celebration of Arbor Week, April 1-8. For more information, check out <http://www.cityofalbany.net/trees> or call 917-7679.

Library Receives New Microfilm Reader/Printer

Albany Public Library has a new microfilm reader, thanks to a generous donation from the *Albany Democrat-Herald*. The new machine replaces an earlier model which stopped working several months ago when a part failed and could not be replaced. The replacement machine allows users to read, print, and scan archived copies of the newspaper. The scanner also makes it possible for users to send files by e-mail.

The Library is one of three locations where issues of the *Democrat-Herald* are archived.

City Budget, Financial Report Earn Honors

What happened in 1984?

- Ma Bell broke up.
- The cost of a first-class postage stamp was 20 cents.
- "The Cosby Show" debuted.
- Apple introduced the user-friendly Macintosh computer.
- "Thriller" was the album of the year.
- The City of Albany, Oregon, received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

While all of these events truly occurred, only one has happened every year since.

For more than 20 years in a row, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded Albany the

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The guidelines used by the impartial panel of judges include that the document have a "spirit of full disclosure."

In 1991, the City received another significant award from GFOA — the Distinguished Budget Award for the City's budget document. The City has received this award for 15 consecutive years. Judges for this award assess how well the budget document serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an

operations guide, and a communications device.

The CAFR and the budget are produced by the City's Finance Office. John Stahl, Assistant Finance Director, is primarily responsible for their production, assisted by City Clerk Betty Langwell and Senior Accountant Mike Murzynsky.

GFOA, based in Chicago, is a nonprofit professional association serving 15,000 government finance professionals throughout North America.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation awards program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Help Police Find Drug Houses

www.cityofalbany.net/police/pdf/Narcotics_Report.pdf

The Albany Police Department Web page now includes forms to help residents track suspicious activity and locate possible drug houses.

A suspicious activity log and a suspected drug house narcotics report are posted separately on the Police Web pages in portable document format (.pdf). Each can be downloaded to your computer and printed at your convenience.

Go to the City's Web site, and click on "Report a suspected drug house" in the How Do I? column on the home page.

The three-page Suspected Drug House report asks for the resident to supply:

- the address of the suspected drug activity, including a description of the residence, its location on the block, the number of stories, the color, and other identifiers;
- Names, if known, and descriptions of the people who live in the house and those suspected of drug activity (they may not be the same);
- Vehicles used by those who occupy and frequent the residence;
- Traffic patterns at the residence – times of day or night; visitors by car, on bikes, on foot; particular days of the week that are busiest; length of time that visitors remain.
- Any personal observations of possible drug transactions at or near the resi-

dence, such as the exchange of money or goods for small parcels.

- Any information about the type of drugs being sold, and how the reporting person came by that knowledge.
- Any observations of "lookouts" posted on or near the property and when they are on duty;
- Other suspicious activity at the suspected drug house, such as unusual merchandise arriving or leaving, people carrying weapons, or violent incidents.
- The length of time these activities have been taking place, including the date they started, if known.

The Suspicious Activity Log provides space for residents to document additional comings and goings at the suspected drug house by recording vehicle makes and models, license plate numbers, when a vehicle arrives or leaves, the date, and any remarks that may provide additional information.

Completed forms can be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the Detective Division at Albany Police Department, 1117 Jackson SE. Information on the forms will be kept strictly confidential and is not considered an official complaint.

For more information about the Police Department and crime reporting, visit the Web site or call 917-7680.

Join A.F.D. for Pump & Run Saturday, June 17



The third annual Pump & Run competition will be held June 17, 2006 at the Albany Athletic Club, 380 Hickory Street NW. The event is a fund-raiser for the Albany Fire Fighters Community Assistance Fund (AFFCAF).

Pump & Run is a combined bench press and 5K run competition, with a 5k run- or walk-only option. Participants receive a time deduction from their 5K run time for each repetition they can bench press.

Entry forms are available at the Albany Athletic Club, Albany Fire Services administration offices in City Hall, or at any of the four Albany fire stations. For more information, contact Susan Fox at 541-917-7700, ext. 5010, or susan.fox@cityofalbany.net.

Information and an entry form are also available at <http://www.cityofalbany.net/fire/pumpandrunk>.



Safety Camp: Twice the Fun

Twice as many Albany youth will be able to learn and have fun this summer at Safety Camp.

Due to increasing popularity, the annual event will occur in two separate camps this year: June 26–29, 2006 and July 31–August 3, 2006. With two camps, we hope to accommodate as many children from our community as possible and avoid having to turn participants away.

Safety Camp is for children entering fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in the fall. Both sessions will be held at the South Albany High School cafeteria. The

cost is \$30 per child, which includes a camp T-shirt, lunch, snacks, and lots of fun. Registration will take place at the Boys & Girls Club of Albany, 1215 Hill Street SE.

Safety Camp is sponsored by the Albany Fire and Police Departments, Mid-Willamette Family YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of Albany, Albany Community Pool, and Greater Albany Public Schools.

For more information go online to <http://www.cityofalbany.net/fire/safetycamp>. You can also call Wanda Omdahl at 917-7734 or Deb Keehn at 917-7733.

Annexations, Waterfront, Tree Farms Affected by Development Code Changes

The Albany City Council made several changes to the Albany Development Code in January. The following is a summary.

Annexation

Residents of a so-called "island" territory are now allowed to vote when that area is put up for annexation. Those votes will be counted in the total votes cast citywide in an election. Procedures for processing annexation requests have been moved into the Albany Development Code. Procedures related to the land use aspects of annexation have been added.

Waterfront Zoning District

The Development Code includes a new statement reflecting the intended transition of the Willamette River waterfront

from an industrial area to an area with a variety of housing choices and a mixture of housing, office, and retail uses. New industrial uses and certain commercial uses are prohibited, while businesses that are there today are protected.

Miscellaneous

Trees intended to be farmed as Christmas trees or trees that are under an Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Stewardship Plan may be cut without site plan review. Review criteria have been modified for site plans dealing with duplexes on corner lots in the RS-6.5, RS-5 and RS-10 zoning districts.

For more information on the Albany Development Code, contact the Community Development Department at 917-7550.

Building Division receives high marks from insurance rating program

Property insurance rates for newer construction in the City of Albany should reflect the significantly improved ISO rating of the City's Building Division.

Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), an insurer-supported organization with the primary mission of providing advisory insurance underwriting and rating information to insurers, recently analyzed the Building Division's policies and procedures to determine its building code effectiveness grading classification. This classification has a direct effect on the community's property insurance rates.

On a scale of 10 to 1, with 10 being the lowest possible effectiveness, Albany's Building Division received an effectiveness classification of 2 in all categories. In ISO's last review of the City's procedures in 1998, the Building Division received a classification of 4 in all categories.

The Building Division's classification is based on high marks in administration of codes, plan review, and field inspection. The marks have improved since ISO's last review due to increased training; expanded public awareness programs such as the Building Division's participation in local home shows; an increase in staff; better record-keeping procedures; and setting up a procedure for natural hazard mitigation inspections.



Insurers may use the ISO rating to provide credits to individual property insurance policies in recognition of community efforts to mitigate property damage from natural disasters. While individual insurers may use different credits or effective dates, the ISO program will apply credits citywide to any new construction issued a Certificate of Occupancy in the year 2005 and forward.

The Building Division hopes for a classification of 1 in the next ISO review. To reach this goal, the Building Division needs to improve the diversity and amount of staff training, especially on legal issues, and needs to add more field inspectors and a professional engineer to its staff. New staff with legal and training expertise were hired in 2005, and the Division is currently reviewing applications for additional field inspectors.

Register for FireMed Service

The Albany Fire Department and its ambulance service are important partners with the local medical community in providing quality emergency care. The Fire Department's FireMed membership plan offers protection from additional out-of-pocket expense for needed ambulance service while helping the department to maintain state-of-the-art service.

The \$50.00 annual membership fee provides emergency pre-hospital medical care and transportation to the immediate family regularly living in the household of the member. A membership covers the purchaser, spouse, and persons in the household who are listed as legal dependents for income tax purposes. Those not included in this definition are required to obtain separate memberships.

For further information about this valuable program, please complete the coupon to the right.



Join FireMed
PARAMEDIC AMBULANCE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

24-hour service covers the entire family
Saves money and lives
One low price

Please send me a FREE membership information packet.

Name: _____

Address: _____

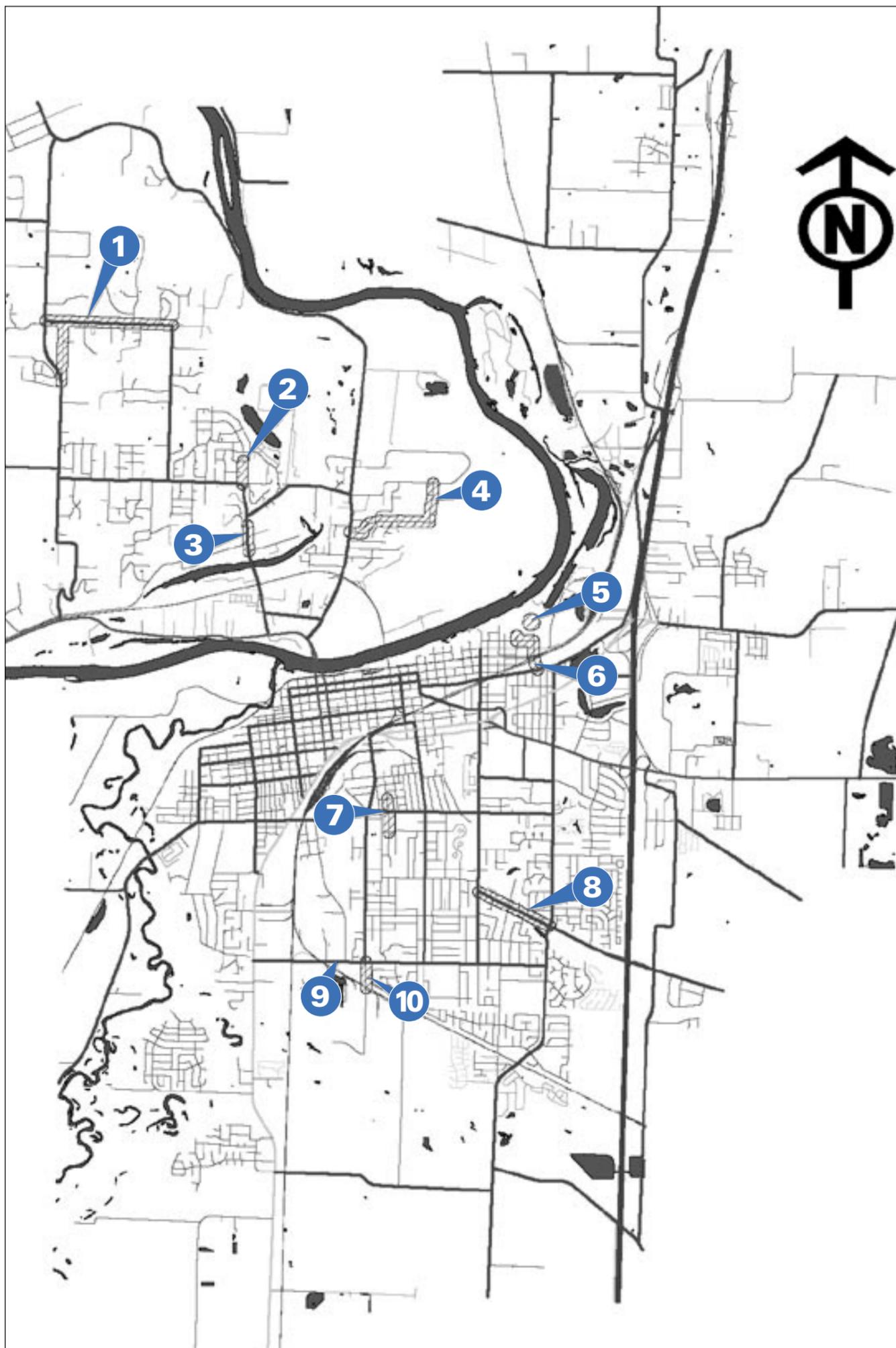
City/State: _____

Zip: _____

Mail to Albany Fire, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321

Summer Construction Projects Announced

- 1. Zone 4 water system improvements:** This project will improve water pressure for homes in the upper elevations of North Albany. The work includes construction of a new pump station and 8,500 feet of new water lines. Cost estimate is \$1.9 million. Construction is expected to begin in late spring and be completed by the end of the summer.
- 2. North Albany Road extension:** This will connect North Albany Road to the Covey Run Subdivision by extending North Albany Road from the roundabout over the top of Gibson Hill. Construction started in the fall of 2005 but stopped due to wet weather. It will continue in the spring as weather allows. Estimated cost is \$550,000; funds are from a local improvement district.
- 3. Traffic signal at North Albany Road and West Thornton Lake Drive:** The traffic signal will be erected where North Albany Road intersects with the driveway to North Albany Middle School to alleviate congestion and improve safety. The project budget is \$415,000; construction should be completed during the summer.
- 4. 13th Avenue water line replacement:** Approximately 4,000 feet of leaking and undersized water line will be replaced. Construction should take place during the spring and summer. Budget is \$650,000.
- 5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion:** The largest capital improvement project in the City's history, this will update and expand the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet current and future capacity and to meet new regulations for wastewater treatment and disposal. Work will begin in late summer or early fall and will continue for several years.
- 6. Street overlay:** Because of the major construction work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, several streets in the area need to be built up to handle increased and heavier construction-related traffic. The work should be completed by the end of August.
- 7. Queen Avenue area sewer replacement:** About 1,300 feet of sewer line in poor condition will be rehabilitated. Project budget is \$242,000. Work is expected to be completed in the summer.
- 8. Grand Prairie Road water and sewer extension:** Water and sewer lines will be extended down Grand Prairie near Interstate 5 in conjunction with Linn County's project to rebuild the road to urban standards. The utility work is expected to be completed this summer. Budget for the utility portion of the work is \$796,000.
- 9. 34th Avenue sewer lift station improvements:** The sewer pump station near Fire Station 12 on 34th Avenue and the sewer lines going in and out of it will be rebuilt this summer. The project budget is \$1.2 million.
- 10. Marion Street reconstruction:** The section of Marion Street between 34th Avenue and the railroad tracks (about three and a half blocks) is in extremely poor condition and will be rebuilt this summer. Budget for the project is \$386,000.



City Council Adopts Parks Plans

The Albany City Council established a new vision for the City's parks and recreation system by adopting a new plan for Timber Linn Memorial Park and the 2006-2015 Parks Master Plan. Both plans were approved at the Council's February 22, 2006 meeting after ten months of receiving comments and ideas from more than 700 citizens. The City's project consultant, MIG Inc. of Portland, guided development of both plans. The 2006-2015 Parks Master Plan proposes future improvements to Albany's parks and recreation facilities, including a

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) with a funding plan for the first five years. Projects include renovating existing park facilities; new parks to serve recently developed neighborhoods; a new community park in far south Albany for a soccer/football field complex; and major improvements to Timber Linn Memorial Park. Money for these projects will come from Parks System Development Charges; state and federal grants; private gifts and donations; and the annual Parks and Recreation budget. The plan emphasizes City partnerships with local schools, non-

profit service organizations, and others to advance the proposed projects. The 2006-2010 CIP proposes \$9.5 million for parks projects. The new Timber Linn Memorial Park Plan will guide restoration of existing facilities and development of new features in Albany's largest park over the next 15 years. The plan calls for relocating existing soccer fields to the new south Albany community park (included in the Parks Master Plan); eventually developing a seven-field softball/baseball complex; a redesigned amphitheater; expanded and

paved parking lots; new trails; renovated picnic and playground facilities; and a new Veterans Memorial. A proposed community center, possibly the building site for a new YMCA, is also included. "We are grateful for the City Council's vision and expression of support for these two plans," said Ed Hodney, Parks and Recreation Director. "I am also very thankful to the hundreds of citizens who participated in the planning process. Albany Parks and Recreation will be working hard to implement these plans over the next several years."